Parallel Universe

Genesis1:1

2022/

Suddenly, may I ask—do you know what a parallel universe is? This is one of the issues, or rather possibilities, currently being actively discussed in modern astrophysics. Simply put, although we humans today have no way of proving it or even fully understanding it, some propose that the universe is not limited to the one we are familiar with. Instead, alongside it, at the same time, in the same place, there may exist other universes—utterly different yet strangely similar—existing as if in parallel. Another universe might exist not far away, but closer than we can reach, even intersecting within our very bodies. This concept far surpasses the old ideas of extraterrestrial beings or planets with life resembling Earth's.

The world of physics is incomprehensible to us ordinary people. A while ago, black holes became a hot topic. They were said to be so massive, so powerfully gravitational, that even light could not escape, leaving them utterly dark—hence the name "black hole." But now, scientists theorize that matter can in fact escape from black holes, and that the great explosions of black holes are what we call supernovae.

Theories have also proposed the existence of other dimensions. Some suggest that the phenomenon of protons disappearing occurs because they move into another dimension. There was much talk of building a massive experimental facility in Japan to investigate this phenomenon, and even Mt. Seburi in Saga Prefecture was once considered as a candidate site. The project would have cost trillions of yen, sparking quite an uproar at the time.

Not long ago, neutrinos—once considered to exist only in theory—were confirmed to exist through experiments at a facility known as the Kamiokande (Super-Kamiokande) experiment. A Japanese physicist involved in the project even received the Nobel Prize. Neutrinos are particles that can pass through anything, even light itself.

Then came talk of "dark matter." If we assume the total mass of the universe is 100, more than 96 percent of it is said to consist of matter that cannot be detected by any

modern device. In other words, it is matter that cannot be proven or explained. The minds of those who study theoretical physics are truly beyond our understanding.

Yet it was our God who created such a world. To try to explain God's existence or nature with the human brain is utter foolishness. It is even more absurd than trying to measure the water of the ocean with a small cup. The Bible teaches us that God transcends all, penetrates all, dwells within all things, and is present in everything.

And somehow, this great God loves human beings. From the beginning, He created humans as the object of His love, as those upon whom He would pour His affection. Angels, in terms of function, ability, and intellect, are far superior to humans. They are not bound by weak flesh and can accomplish great things. They can fly, and even appear to move instantly from place to place. And yet, God chose to love frail and small humans more than the angels.

When angels sinned, God did not seek to save them, but gave them strict judgment. But when human beings sinned, God pitied them and was grieved. He reached out with His hand of salvation. That saving hand is Jesus Christ. Human beings are the object of God's love. Therefore, they became the object of salvation. God saved sinful humans at the cost of the life of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

Let us live standing upon this fact: that we are loved by God. No matter what anyone says, we are loved by the great God, the absolute Creator. Why should we worry? Why should we hang our heads? There is no existence more precious and great than yours, for you are loved by the infinite God. That is enough, is it not? Rest in the bosom of this God. Lean on Him. There is no need to sink into despair over your sins, your faults, your weaknesses, or your inadequacies.

When you discover that the man you secretly admired, or the woman you had quietly yearned for, loves you, you are overjoyed regardless of your circumstances—happiness wells up and you are filled with delight. How much more wonderful it is, then, to be loved continually by God, the Creator of heaven and earth.

Even when the devil points to our ugliness, cutting and tearing our self-respect to shreds, God continues to love us. Even when others point fingers at us, spreading lies and slander, God sees us clearly and understands us. The God who created this vast

universe—whether finite or infinite we cannot even know—knows every detail of our being. And He looks upon us with eyes of love and compassion. Truly, our God is a gracious and generous God.

Let us remember that we were created in the image of this God. We, too, were originally made to be gracious, generous, and loving beings. Though our nature may have been wounded and damaged by sin, we still bear God's likeness. Let us value that fact. Our character, though weakened and broken, has not been completely destroyed. It has not been utterly erased. There still remains within us the beautiful nature in which we were made.

Christian growth means treasuring, restoring, and nurturing this beautiful God-given nature. This is made possible by the help of the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, together with our own efforts. By our strength alone, we cannot achieve it. But if we neglect our own effort while leaving everything to the Holy Spirit, that is meaningless as well. Trust in the Spirit's power, pray for His help, and make your effort. Then the beautiful nature of God will be re-formed within us.

And so, people will come to see the image of God within you.